

What is claimed:

1. A method for the preparation of desflurane comprising: reacting isoflurane with 0.7-1.2 mol.% of antimony pentachloride and 1.3-2.2 molar equivalents of hydrogen fluoride.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted with 1.5-2.0 molar equivalents of hydrogen fluoride.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted at temperatures of 9-18 °C.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted for about 6 to 7 hours after the addition of hydrogen fluoride is completed.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein hydrogen fluoride is added at the rate of 0.25 to 1.5 molar equivalents per hour to a mixture of isoflurane and antimony pentachloride.